

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

January 11, 2022

Approved January 25, 2022

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday January 11, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Scott Walker, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present. Town Counsel Mike Cunningham was preset for the Executive Session.

Anticipated Speakers: Landscape Architect KZLA

Preliminary Matter: Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call and read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Lasker.

The Park Commission went into Executive Session at 7 pm as called to order by Mr. Lasker.

The Commission adjourned from Executive Session at 7:47 pm and proceeded into their regular monthly meeting.

Open Forum – There were no comments for Open Forum

Introduction of Associate Park Commission Member Josh Fenollosa - Mr. Lasker and the Commission welcomed Mr. Fenollosa to the Commission and thanked him for his volunteerism to the community.

Capital Project Updates

Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds Final Design Review

Mr. Barella and Ms. Desilets presented to the Commission. Ms. Desilets reviewed information gathered at the prior public meetings and Mr. Barella reviewed both sets of proposed plans.

Comments Received Included:

Spy Pond Playground

- Ms. Mayer approved of the project as presented
- Ms. Rothenberg
 - Lack of play experience for the 5-12 structure in comparison to the 2-5
- Ms. Carrier
 - Prominent location of the spring riders, and number of
 - Rather highlight that area with seating or expansion of 5-12 area
 - Intentional placement of benches and seating

- Mr. Lasker
 - Agreed with Ms. Carrier on her spring rider comments
 - Questioned the distance of seating in the circle play area
 - Agreed with Ms. Rothenberg on the lack of play experiences for 5-12
- Mr. Walker
 - Additional shade and seating
 - Agreed with comments of the other Commissioners
- Mr. Fenollosa
 - Potential to do more with the custom fencing and interpretive elements
 - Need for additional shade in the center of the playground
- Ms. Canniff
 - Had no objections to the plan as presented

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Barella stated the budget for the project and that the plan as presented right at the maximum for the project. Mr. Connelly stated that any additional cost should not impact best practice accessibility design.

Parmenter Playground

- Ms. Rothenberg
 - More of a dynamic design than Spy
- Mr. Lasker
 - Cost concerns
 - Bottleneck at entry off of Academy Street
 - Larger hill slide is preferred to be in the base bid and not an alternate
- Ms. Carrier
 - Circular pattern throughout the park
 - Agreed with the wider more inviting opening off Academy Street
 - Fencing concerns for new fence near swing and school
 - Intentional seat placement
- Ms. Mayer approved the project as presented
- Ms. Canniff approved the project as presented
 - Commented on the desire of the public for a direct path from Academy Street and not a winding path
- Mr. Fenollosa
 - More seating and amenities (stroller parking, etc.)
- Mr. Walker
 - Agreed with Mr. Lasker on the bottleneck issue at the Academy entrance
 - Agreed with the path through the playground as proposed

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Barella reviewed the budget for the project and that the plan as presented was at the top of the allowed budget.

Mr. Connelly stated that the internal design team would review all of the suggestions and comments heard at the meeting and will come back to the Commission for another final design review. Mr. Connelly

stated that this may hold up the conservation approval process and push the bid timing back but as long as the bid could get out in February we should still receive fair pricing.

CPA Update – Mr. Connelly stated that he is presenting to the CPA Committee on February 2nd

Design RFP Stratton, Peirce, and Bishop – Mr. Lasker reminded everyone of the interview time and dates on 1/12 & 1/13

Hills Mountain Biking – No update at this time

Hurd Field – Stantec has submitted the plan to Conservation for review later this month

Approval of Minutes – 12/11/2021 – Tabled until next meeting

The Commission reviewed the upcoming agenda items and correspondence received.

New Business

Ms. Canniff and Ms. Rothenberg shared their conversations with a committee to look at future hybrid meetings. Park and Recreation may possibly be a good Commission to pilot hybrid meetings for their public hearings. More information to be provided at a later date.

Adjournment

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Walker and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Joseph Connelly

Director of Recreation